

3. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 70% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

4. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 95% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

5. (Twice Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant in the coating comprises a fruit or one or more herbs.

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6. (Twice Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating includes coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, black currant, red currant, gooseberry, lingon berries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bergamot, salvia, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus or mixtures thereof.

7. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight.

8. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 20% by weight.

10. (Twice Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in the form of a powder, slices or pieces or combinations thereof.

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11. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 10 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating has ^a the particle size of less than 3 mm, determined on the longest dimension of the particle.

p - 12. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 11 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating has ^a the particle size of about 3 μ m to 2mm.

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14. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 13 wherein said seeds are from a fruit including strawberry, blackberry or raspberry.

16. (Twice Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the natural flavouring agent is used in the coating of the chewing gum and in a chewing gum core.

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17. (Once Amended) A chewing gum according to claim 16 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating of the chewing gum and in the chewing gum core provides a natural colour to the chewing gum core.

22. (Once Amended) A method for preparing a chewing gum composition comprising providing a mixture of:

- a) a gum base material; and
- b) a water soluble portion;

forming chewing gum pieces and coating the chewing gum pieces with a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10% by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

23. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 20% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

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24. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 30% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

25. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 40% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

26. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating comprises one or more fruits or one or more herbs.

27. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating includes coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, black currant, red currant, gooseberry, lingon berries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bergamot, salvia, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus or mixtures thereof.